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POLICY

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Sanitary Measures of Importation of Animals and Animal Products

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

Livestock and Products

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Poultry and Products

Dairy and Products

Fishery Products

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Report Highlights:

The following report is an unofficial translation of [Law Number 24-89](#) on Veterinary Sanitary Measures for the importation of animals, animal products, products of animal origin, animal propagating products, and seafood and fresh water products. This has the impact on \$22 million of U.S. products.

Law No. 24-89 on Veterinary Sanitary Measures for the Importation of Animals, Animal Products, Products of Animal Origin, Animal Propagating Products and Freshwater and Seafood Products, promulgated by the Dahir n ° 1-89-230 of the 22nd of December 1414 (September 10th, 1993)

(OB n ° 4225 of 20/10/1993, page 557).

Having regard to the Constitution, in particular Article 26 thereof,

Decided the following:

Is promulgated and will be published in the Official Bulletin, following the present dahir, the law n ° 24-89 enacting measures of veterinary police force on the importation of animals, animal products, products of animal origin, animal propagation products and seafood and freshwater products, adopted by the House of Representatives on 19 January I 1410 (19 December 1989).

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Law No. 24-89 on Animal Health Measures for the Importation of Animals, Animal Products, Products of Animal Origin, Animal Propagating Products and Seafood and Freshwater Products

Article 1

Animals, animal products, animal products, animal propagation products and sea and freshwater products, which are presented for import - with the exception of those in international transit without load breakage - are subject at the importer's expense to a veterinary health and quality inspection

For the purposes of this Law:

- **animals:** animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine, camelina and porcine species, those of the equine and asina species and their crossings, farmyard animals, wild animals, game animals, bees, pets and laboratory animals;
- **animal products:** meat and offal, that is to say all parts of animals that may be delivered for human consumption;
- **products of animal origin:**
 - a) products made by animals in their natural state or processed;
 - b) animal products intended for consumption after preparation, treatment or processing, whether or not these goods are mixed with other foodstuffs;
 - c) animal products intended for animal feed and the animal by-products industry;

- **animal propagation products:** frozen sperm, fresh or frozen embryos and any other biological product intended for animal propagation;

- **seafood and freshwater products:** fish, shellfish, crustaceans and frogs and any other products, live, fresh or after preservation or processing.

The importation of the animals, foodstuffs and products referred to above may be carried out only by the border posts appearing on a list established by regulation.

Article 2

The animals, foodstuffs and products listed in Article 1 above and all items originating in or coming from a country not recognized as free from contagious diseases are susceptible to prohibition of entry.

However, certain products or products which have been subjected to specific treatments prior to their importation under the sanitary conditions laid down by regulation, are no longer liable to infection, may be admitted for import and transit.

Article 3

The animals, commodities or products listed in Article 1 above, including those in international transit, may be accepted for import only if accompanied by sanitary documents issued by the official or duly authorized veterinary health authorities of the country of origin and, where appropriate, the country or countries of transit.

However, for the products of animal origin referred to in (b) of Article 1 above, the health documents referred to in the preceding paragraph may be submitted after the importation of such products.

The verification of health documents by the veterinary services takes place after unloading. However, it shall be carried out before unloading for animals coming from all countries, as well as for unprocessed animal products originating in or coming from countries not recognized as free from contagious diseases and for which the specific treatments laid down in the second paragraph of the article above.

The types and statements of these health documents are determined by regulation.

Article 4

The sanitary inspection prescribed in article 1 above shall be carried out immediately after unloading in the customs enclosure during operating hours. It takes place for animals in the quarantine area or in a place designated for this purpose by the central veterinary health authority, and for foodstuffs and products at the places of unloading.

However, on occasion, the sanitary inspection may, at the request of the importer and at his expense, take place on a public holiday or outside the normal operating hours of said offices.

At the end of the sanitary inspection, the veterinary inspector of the border post issues a veterinary health certificate. The removal of animals, foodstuffs and products must be authorized by the customs services only after production of this certificate.

Article 5

Animals may be subject to a quarantine regime that may reveal their state of health or allow them to be tested and / or further investigated.

Quarantine must be carried out in the quarantine area of the entry border post or in a place designated for that purpose by the central veterinary health authority.

Article 6

Animals suspected of contamination or recognized as suffering from contagious diseases, during health inspection or during quarantine, are either rejected or subject to necessary measures to ensure animals are free of contagious diseases provided for by the legislation in force. The meat of these animals, recognized as safe by the veterinary inspector, may be released for consumption in accordance with the customs laws and regulations in force.

Article 7

Foodstuffs and products suspected or recognized as unfit for human or animal consumption or presenting danger of transmitting contagious diseases are immediately rejected. They may, at the request of the importer, be destroyed or incinerated. The destruction or incineration operations must be carried out under veterinary supervision, in the presence of the importer or his representative and that of the representatives of other concerned services.

Article 8

The costs of quarantine, slaughter, destruction, cremation and transport of animals, food and products, from the border crossing to a slaughterhouse, a rendering plant or an incineration or landfill site resulting from the determination of the veterinary animal health measures shall be borne by the importer.

Article 9

Without prejudice to the application, if necessary, special legislation, particularly in the area of customs and the reduction of fraud, is punishable by a fine of 2,000 to 20,000 DH:

- any falsification or attempt to falsify the health documents accompanying the animals, commodities and products, including those in international transit, referred to in Article 1 above;
- any action or maneuver tending to constitute by any means an impediment to the application of this Law or the texts adopted for its application.

The fine is doubled in cases of repeat offenses committed within the period of 3 years after the sentence of conviction become irrevocable. The offender may also be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Article 10

The veterinary inspectors of the border posts and the customs agents are qualified, each one concerned with the investigation and the observation of the infringements in accordance with the provisions of this law and texts taken for its application.

Article 11

Are repealed as amended and supplemented:

- the dahir of 18 chaabane 1332 (July 12, 1914) enacting veterinary sanitary measures for the importation of animals and animal products;
- the dahir of 21 rejeb 1344 (February 5, 1926) reporting the import ban of certain live animals;
- the dahir of 6 safar 1350 (June 23rd, 1931) prohibiting the import and transit in Morocco of live animals of the bovine species with oesophagostomosis and goats with Maltese fever;
- the Dahir of 6 Ramadan 1351 (January 3, 1933) prohibiting the importation of live animals and fresh meat, frozen or chilled, from certain countries and regulating the import and temporary admission of animal products of the same origin;
- the Dahir of 8 Ramadan 1351 (January 5, 1933) relating to the indication of origin on products imported into Morocco;
- the Dahir of 8 hija 1351 (4 April 1933) concerning the importation

DONE AT RABAT, 22 REBIA I 1414 (10 SEPTEMBER 1993).

For countersignature, The Prime Minister,

MOHAMMED KARIM-LAMRANI